

Specification Amendments

On page 6, immediately prior to the Section entitled "Detailed Description of the Invention", please insert the following new paragraph:

Figure 6 is a perspective view of the guide plate of the invention, with the moving tracks shown in the guide slots.

On page 8, please replace the first paragraph with the following:

(full text with markings)

As shown in Figures 5 and 6 ~~Figure 5~~, after coming back to the drive plane P and proceeding downstream adjacent segment 26a, this second segment 26b of chain 26 continues to the downstream end 24b of housing 24 and continues into a section of track 14.

(full text without markings)

As shown in Figures 5 and 6, after coming back to the drive plane P and proceeding downstream adjacent segment 26a, this second segment 26b of chain 26 continues to the downstream end 24b of housing 24 and continues into a section of track 14.

On page 8, please replace the last paragraph with the following:

(full text with markings)

Because the plates 28 of chain 26 reside within the same drive plane P, carriers 20 will easily slide transversely from chain segment 26a to segment 26b, without interruption of transport. While not described in detail herein, the inside

lane 16 operates in the same fashion, with a first segment 26a of chain 26 wrapping around a drive sprocket ~~[[52]]~~ 53, thence around an idler sprocket 54, and back into the same drive plane P adjacent the first chain segment 26a to form a second chain segment 26b which exits the drive module in alignment with the entry of the inside lane 16.

(full text without markings)

Because the plates 28 of chain 26 reside within the same drive plane P, carriers 20 will easily slide transversely from chain segment 26a to segment 26b, without interruption of transport. While not described in detail herein, the inside lane 16 operates in the same fashion, with a first segment 26a of chain 26 wrapping around a drive sprocket 53, thence around an idler sprocket 54, and back into the same drive plane P adjacent the first chain segment 26a to form a second chain segment 26b which exits the drive module in alignment with the entry of the inside lane 16.

Please delete the Abstract of the Disclosure, on page 15 of the specification, and replace it with the following:

(full text with markings)

A conveyor track drive includes a ~~housing with a first~~ continuous loop conveyor for supporting and carrying a specimen container, with one portion of the conveyor ~~having a portion~~ extending through the a drive housing ~~within a generally horizontal drive plane~~. The conveyor includes a first segment extending through the housing ~~in the drive plane~~, which then wraps around a

portion of a drive sprocket, extends back upstream and around a portion of an idler sprocket and then includes a second segment transversely adjacent the first segment ~~within the drive plane~~. A guide plate on the housing is positioned over the adjacent segments of the conveyor ~~drive plane~~ with a slot located to guide a specimen carrier from the first segment to the second segment ~~at the point where the two segments are adjacent one another~~. The specimen carrier then exits the housing on the second segment of the conveyor. A motor in the housing drives the drive sprocket to move the conveyor.